

# UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

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## UMCCTS Newsletter, July 2013

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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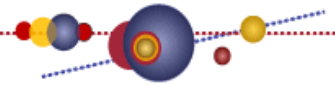
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## News and Events July 2013

### University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical & Translational Science

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#### **~NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY~ UMCCTS Small Conference Grants**

#### **Introduction**

The University of Massachusetts Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) is pleased to announce a funding call for small conference grants (SCG). This funding opportunity is designed to leverage the convening capacity of the UMCCTS to create new, multidisciplinary teams to address a pressing health need. For the purposes of this award, a conference is defined as a symposium, educational program, seminar, workshop, or any other organized and formal meeting.

#### **Purpose**

The UMCCTS supports projects that are inter-campus in orientation and directed toward life sciences projects related to clinical and translational research. This fund serves to spur interdisciplinary collaboration and strengthen the University's research portfolio in clinical and translational research. By providing seed funding to outstanding faculty members, this fund facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system, thereby leveraging the considerable expertise and resources that exist on the individual campuses. It is assumed that successful conferences will serve as a springboard to attract additional funding from extramural sources.

All UMass faculty (Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, Worcester) with an interest in Clinical & Translational Science may apply. Project awards of up to \$1,000 can be requested.

**Complete details, criteria to apply, and the application process are available at the UMCCTS website at:** [http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CTS/Research/SCG\\_RFA\\_Aug\\_2013.pdf](http://www.umassmed.edu/uploadedFiles/CTS/Research/SCG_RFA_Aug_2013.pdf)

**Applications are due at 11:59PM (EDT) on Friday, August 16, 2013.**



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#### **CCTS Summer Research Boot Camp July 8 to August 16, 2013**

We are offering a free, 6-week summer research boot camp which includes lectures, workshops, courses, and a seminar series. The boot camp focuses on the development of clinical investigation skills through the offering of lectures and hands on experiences in epidemiology/study design, biostatistics, and scientific writing.

Participation in the boot camp is open to medical and graduate students, residents, and post-doctoral fellows, junior faculty, and staff throughout the University, its affiliated hospitals, and its CCTS partners. You can attend as many or as few of the sessions that you are interested in.

At the end of this 6 week experience, trainees will begin to understand the nuances of study design, conduct scientific research, data analysis and presentation, and interpretation of study findings. Participants will also be better prepared to enroll in Masters and PhD programs in clinical and public health research.

While there are no registration fees, **advance registration is required** at [www.umassmed.edu/ccts/bootcamp](http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/bootcamp)

**QUESTIONS:** Please email, [bootcamp@umassmed.edu](mailto:bootcamp@umassmed.edu)

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### UMCCTS Community Engagement and Research Section Webinar Series

The Community Engagement and Research Section of the UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science will offer a webinar:

**Wednesday, July 10, 12:00-1:00 pm** - - ***"Finding What You Need: Sources for National, State, and Local Information and Data"***, presented by, Sally Gore, MS, MS LIS

Webinars are free and open to all! The Webinar Series is designed for researchers and community members interested in community engagement research.

**Register at:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Y9qPrmnKDGUxyiHCY\\_ZCASC5cEQwHAK7nvbE4NVRqkA/viewform?pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Y9qPrmnKDGUxyiHCY_ZCASC5cEQwHAK7nvbE4NVRqkA/viewform?pli=1)

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### Congratulations to the 2013 UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund Awardees!

*We are pleased to announce the 4 recipients of the UMass Life Sciences Moment Fund chosen from 41 letters of intent.*

**Douglas Golenbock, MD (UMass Worcester) and Garth F. Hall, PhD (UMass Lowell)**  
*The Role of Tau in Infammasome Activation in Alzheimer's Disease*

**Phil Gona, PhD (UMass Worcester), Eric Mick, ScD (UMass Worcester) and Andrea Foulkes, PhD (UMass Amherst)**  
*Genetic and Genomic Determinants of Hypertension in Black and Caucasian South Africans – A Pilot-study Nested in the African-PREDICT Study*

**Y. Tony Ip, PhD (UMass Worcester), Zhong Jiang, MD (UMass Worcester) and Michele Markstein, PhD (UMass Amherst)**  
*Establishment of Rab 11-regulated Inflammation as Therapeutic Targets in Cancer Progression*

**Paul D. Kaufman, MD (UMass Worcester) and Daniel F. Schmidt, PhD (UMass Lowell)**  
*Active Plastics as a Novel Strategy to Combat Fungal Infections*

***Congratulations to our awardees!***

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### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mass Life Sciences Innovation (MALSI) Day Announcement**

Mass Tech Transfer Center (MTTC) recently held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual MALSI Day on June 5, 2013. This event brings together scientific leaders, business experts, innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, etc., to interact with presenters with innovative and potential commercial ideas. These included 3 groups from UMass - Dartmouth, Lowell, and the Medical School. UMMS graduate student Artem Kutikov, (Song lab – Orthopedics), won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize among 31 poster presenters by an expert panel of judges. Below is a brief paragraph outlining Artem's experience at MALSI Day.

*The focus of my research is to develop synthetic materials for bone grafting and guided bone regeneration. Such materials can overcome the clinical challenges associated with the limited quantity of autograft bone and the poor healing capacity of cadaveric bone grafts. To this end, I developed a material composed of a biodegradable polymer modified to blend stably with hydroxyapatite, the main mineral component in bone. The favorable handling properties and biological performance of this material make it promising for clinical translation, leading me to present my work at MALSI day. This was an excellent opportunity to learn about the challenges and process of starting a company, discover new industry career options, and network with individuals highly involved in bringing research discoveries to market. I was particularly surprised to discover the large amount of resources available in Massachusetts for the aspiring life sciences entrepreneur. I also found the poster session useful because I received valuable feedback related to the commercialization potential of my material and which questions still need to be answered. At the end of the day I was awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize in the poster competition. Attending MALSI day was a great way to become introduced to the Massachusetts life sciences industry community and further advance my project toward translation.*



### **Upcoming Courses at Harvard Catalyst**

#### **Comparative Effectiveness, Cost-Benefit Analysis, and Implementation Research**

September 23-25, 2013

An overview of T3/T4 research that focuses on the translation of findings from research in controlled environments to general clinical practice and population health.

Application closes August 23, 2013.

<http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/comparativeeffectiveness/>

#### **Effectively Communicating Research**

October 3-4, 2013

A two-day course designed to provide fellows and junior faculty with the skills necessary to express their science clearly to diverse audiences.

Application closes July 25, 2013.

<http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/ecr/>

## **Introduction to Network Medicine**

October 28-30, 2013

This three-day course is an introduction to the developing field of network science in biology and medicine.

Application closes July 18, 2013.

<http://catalyst.harvard.edu/services/networkmedicine/>

Email: [education@catalyst.harvard.edu](mailto:education@catalyst.harvard.edu)

Online: <http://catalyst.harvard.edu/programs/postgraded/>

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***Please remember to cite the CTSA Grant # UL1TR000161 for all journal publications supported by the UMass Center for Clinical & Translational Science.***